

## Curriculum vitae

Lucy Ferriss

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English Department  
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## Degrees

Ph.D., English and American Literature, Tufts University, 1995  
Dissertation: "Female Subjectivity and Narrative Pattern in Robert Penn Warren"  
Advisor: Deborah Digges

M.A., English and American Literature, Tufts University, 1993

M.A., English and Creative Writing, San Francisco State University, 1979  
Thesis: "Philip's Girl," a novel  
Advisor: Gina Berriault

B.A., cum laude, Pomona College, Claremont, CA 1975  
Major: Philosophy  
Thesis: "That Ineluctable Modality: Primacy of Perception in the Creative Experience"  
Advisor: Dr. Morton Beckner

## Published Work

### Books

*A Sister to Honor*, a novel. Berkley/Penguin, 2015

Audiobook, Recorded Books, 2015

Czech translation, Domino Press, 2015

Indian edition, Fingerprint Press, 2016

*The Lost Daughter*, a novel. Berkley/Penguin, 2012

Audiobook, Tantor Media, 2013

Polish translation, 2012

Chinese translation, 2013

*Unveiling the Prophet: The Misadventures of a Reluctant Debutante*, a memoir.

University of Missouri Press, Fall 2005.

*Nerves of the Heart*, a novel. University of Tennessee Press, June 2002

*Leaving the Neighborhood & Other Stories*, Minneapolis: Mid-List Press, June 2001

*The Misconceiver*, a novel. New York: Simon & Schuster, July 1997.

--Hodder & Stoughton, England, 1998.

*Against Gravity*, a novel. New York: Simon & Schuster, February 1996.

*The Gated River*, a novel. New York: Franklin Watts, 1986.

--New York: Critics Choice paperback, 1987.

*Philip's Girl*, a novel. New York: Schocken Books, 1985.

*Sleeping with the Boss: Female Subjectivity and Narrative Pattern in Robert Penn Warren*. Baton Rouge:  
LSU Press, 1996.

In manuscript: "Evening Scores," a novel; "The Journey of Madam Knight," a screenplay; "Hickory  
Limb," a full-length play.

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## Stories

- "Lucky Woman," *december*, Spring 2020  
"On the Way to Beverly Hills," *Saturday's Child*, Spring 2013  
"The House of My Other Life," *American Short Fiction*, Summer 2011  
"Minnesota," *Michigan Quarterly Review*, Winter 2011  
"The Legend of Maude," *Nimrod*, Fall 2009  
"In the Sunset," *Missouri Review*, Summer 2009  
"The Mile High Club" (play) in *Dirty Words: A Literary Encyclopedia of Sex*, ed. Ellen Sussman.  
New York: Bloomsbury: 2008  
"Old Man," *Shenandoah*, Summer 2008  
"Road Rage," *Roanoke Review*, Summer 2004  
"Over the Cliff," *Georgia Review*, Spring 2004  
"The Difficulty of Translation," *Michigan Quarterly Review*, Summer 2001; included in  
*Imported Breads*, ed. Philip Sterling (Mammoth, 2003)  
"The Rules," *Short Story*, Summer 2002  
"Time Share," *Shenandoah*, Summer 2000  
"The Woman Who Said No," *Missouri Review*, December 1999  
"The Windmill," *Missouri Review*, December 1998  
"Leaving the Neighborhood," *River City*, Fall 1997  
"Stampede," *American Literary Review*, Winter 1997  
"Safe-T-Man," *Carolina Quarterly*, Winter 1997  
"Queen of the Woods," *The Southern Anthology*, 1996  
"Rumpelstiltskin," *Louisville Review*, 1994  
"Bones," *Massachusetts Review*, 1990  
"Outside Windhaven," *Southern Review*, 1989  
"Surfacing," *Southern Review*, 1987

## Poems

In *Pequod*, *Transfer*, and other journals and in *One Step Closer: Poetry by Women of the West Coast* (Los Angeles: Pygmalion, 1987)

## Essays

### **Edited Journal**

*Style*, special issue on "The Poetics of Robert Penn Warren," Summer 2002

### **Creative Nonfiction & Memoir**

- "Meditation on Pain," *Prairie Schooner*, Spring 2017  
"Finding the Uncles," *Narratively*, Fall 2016  
"Meditation on a Rat," *American Scholar*, Winter 2016  
"Strange Brew," *New York Times Sunday Magazine*, May 2012  
"Bush," *Fourth Genre*, Summer 2011  
--Listed as Notable Essay in *Best American Essays 2011* and *Best American Nonrequired Reading 2011*  
"My Son's Gamble," *New York Times Sunday Magazine*, June 2009  
"Writing the Body," *Southern Review*, Summer 2009  
"Notes from a Courtside Mother," *Sport Literate*, Summer 2008  
"Fear Not," *Waterstone*, Summer 2007  
"The People Inside Mars," *Arts & Letters*, Autumn 2006  
"A Bomb Shelter for Christmas," *St. Louis Magazine*, Winter 2007  
"The Skinniest Girl in the World," *Nebraska Review*, Summer 2003

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**Scholarly Essays**

- “Reed-Kellogg Diagramming and Vernacular Speech: ‘Telling It Slant’ in the Introductory Classroom,” *American Speech* 89:2, 2014
- “Last Night Train: Warren Criticism Departs the Twentieth Century,” *Southern Literary Review*, Summer 2012
- “Uncle Charles Repairs to the A&P: Changes in Voice in the Recent American Short Story,” *Narrative*, Spring 2008
- “Robert Penn Warren and Psychological Pastoralism,” *Shenandoah*, Winter 2005
- “Who Speaks for Theory?” *Southern Literature*, Spring 2001  
ed. David Madden, LSU Press, 2000
- “Never Truly Members: Patriarchal Catholicism in the Stories of Andre Dubus,” *South Atlantic Review*, Fall 1997
- “Andre Dubus,” in *The Fourth Quarter: New Writers from the South*, ed. Jeffrey Folks and James Perkins, U. Ky., 1997
- “Sleeping with the Boss: Female Subjectivity in Robert Penn Warren’s Fiction,” *Mississippi Review*, Winter 1995
- “Agency in *All the Kings’ Men*: The Issue of Anne Stanton,” *Double Dealer Redux*, Winter 1995
- “From Manty to Cassie: The Evolution of Robert Penn Warren’s Female Persona,” in *To Love So Well the World: Essays on Robert Penn Warren*, ed. Dennis Weeks, Lang, 1991

**Essays on Writing**

- “Don’t Be Afraid to Write Badly,” *The American Scholar*, January 2017
- “Writing ‘Bush,’” *Fourth Genre*, Summer 2011
- “Not Taking the Bait: A Brief for Uselessness in Short Fiction,” in *The Short Story: Essays by Practitioners*, ed. Maurice Lee, U. Arkansas, 2002
- “Writing in No-Time,” in *Sleeping with One Eye Open: A Survival Guide for Creative Women*, ed. Marilyn Kallet and Judith Ortiz Cofer, U. Ga., 1999
- “Turning the Tables: in *Worlds in Our Words: An Anthology of Contemporary Women Writers*, ed. Marilyn Kallet and Patricia Clark, Blair, 1997
- “Butter on the Toast,” in *Dancing in the Heart of Wonder: Women’s View of Mind and Body*, ed. Arachne Stevens, Crossing Press, 1995

**Reviews**

In *The New York Times Book Review*, *Washington Post BookWorld*, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, *Georgia Review*, *Southern Literary Review*, *Michigan Quarterly Review*, *Southern Review*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Pleiades*, *Hollins Critic*, *American Book Review*, *San Francisco Review of Books*, and elsewhere.

**General Essays**

In *The New York Times Sunday Magazine*, *The New York Times Travel*, *The New York Times Style*, *Boston Magazine*, *California Living*, and elsewhere.

**Blogs**

“Lingua Franca” at the *Chronicle of Higher Education*  
(<http://www.chronicle.com/blogs/linguafranca/author/lferriss/>)

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## **Teaching Experience**

2000 – present: Writer-in-Residence, Trinity College, Hartford.

Courses include *Between the Wars*, *Writing in Place*, *Contemporary American Prose*, *Advanced Fiction Writing*, *Contemporary Short Story*, *The Resisting Reader*, *Living Writers*, *Constructing Thought*, and *Native American Literature*. Interim Director, Trinity in Paris, 2018. Interim Director of the Creative Writing Program, 2006-07.

1999 – 2002: Associate Professor of English, Hamilton College.

Courses included *Advanced Seminar in Creative Writing*; *Intermediate Creative Writing—Fiction*; *Introduction to Creative Writing*; *Native American Literature*; *Study of the Novel*; *Reading Literature*; *Wilderness as Metaphor*. Directed the *Visiting Writers Series*, the *Intercollegiate Reading Series*, and the *Creative Writing Senior Program*.

1995 – 1999: Assistant Professor of English, Hamilton College.

1993 – 1995: Visiting Assistant Professor, Hollins University.

Courses included *Fundamentals of Creative Writing—Poetry and Fiction*; *Intermediate Creative Writing*; *Advanced Creative Writing*; *Graduate Tutorial in Creative Writing*; *United States Literature 1914-Present*; *Native American Literature*; *Native American Culture*; *The Resisting Reader*. Advised graduate theses; directed independent studies in *Women’s Literature of Central America*, *Southwestern Native American Literature*, *Feminist Theory*, and *Short Story Writing*. Acted as Graduate School Advisor for undergraduate majors.

1987 – 1992: Lecturer in Creative Writing, Tufts University.

Courses included *Introduction to Creative Writing*; *Editing and Publishing*. Chosen as “Best Instructor” by graduating seniors 1990, 1992.

1991 – 1992: Lecturer in Creative Writing, School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

Taught expository writing course centered on the theme of “Rape as Metaphor.”

1986 – 1987: Preceptor in Expository Writing, Harvard University.

Taught “The Writer’s Craft,” a first-year course linking expository writing and the writing of fiction and poetry.

1979 – 1980: Writer-in-Residence, Phillips Exeter Academy, Exeter, N.H.

### **Summer Conference Teaching**

2008: Artists Collective, Hartford, Connecticut: Fiction writing.

2000 – 2005: Faculty, annual Word & Music conference, New Orleans.

2003: Writing faculty, Wesleyan Writers Workshop, Middletown, Connecticut.

1996 – 1999: Director and faculty, The Montolieu Workshop, Montolieu France.

A week-long workshop on narrative craft for advanced writers of fiction.

1996 – 1997: Fiction faculty, Pen in Hand, Central New York State Writer’s Conference.

A weekend writing workshop for high-school students.

1987 – 1992: Tufts University Summer Sessions.

Fiction Writing, Editing & Publishing.

*(Summer teaching, cont.)*

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1985 – 1986: Bard College Summer Sessions.  
Creative Writing; Editing & Publishing; Autobiography.

1980: Phillips Exeter Academy Summer Session.  
Creative Writing; Effective Speaking.

## **Other Work Experience**

- 1984 – 1986: Director of Publications, Bard College, New York.  
Established Office of Publications; set up in-house production, budgets, and procedures. Wrote, edited, designed, and produced more than 100 publications annually including hardbound books and museum catalogs. Directed staff of three; controlled budget of \$750,000; worked with all administrative and academic departments. Initiated transfer to electronic publishing systems.
- 1983 – 1984: Editing Supervisor, McGraw-Hill. Textbook editing.
- 1981 – 1983: Managing Editor, Publishing Center for Cultural Resources, New York City. Non-profit editing writing, and publications production.
- 1980 – 1981: Assistant to the Publisher, Schocken Books, New York City.  
Acquisitions, promotional writing, copy editing, office management.
- 1975 – 1977: Assistant to the Publisher, Black Sparrow Press, Santa Barbara, California.  
Editing and office management for literary publisher.

## **Selected Addresses and Lectures**

- “Writing the Dramatic Scene,” Mark Twain House Writers’ Conference, September 2016
- “Rip van Winkle & American Literature,” University of Peshawar, Pakistan, April 2012
- “Singular Women, Singular Worlds,” Tennessee Williams Literary Festival, March 2012
- “Politics & Race in the Creative Writing Classroom,” Associated Writing Programs, February 2012
- “Writing History, Writing Race,” Associated Writing Programs, April 2010
- “The Outside World and the Workings of Memory,” Associated Writing Programs, February 2009
- “Dysfunction and Crisis in the Classroom: The Writing Teacher’s Role as Therapist and Whistle-Blower (panel chair), Associated Writing Programs, February 2008
- “Memoir: The Spokes of the Wheel,” Nonfiction Now, November 2007
- “Andre Dubus and the Catholic Controversy,” American Literature Association, May 2007
- “Research in the Memoir,” Words & Music Conference, New Orleans, Fall 2006
- “Point of View and Time: The Nexus,” Wesleyan Writers Conference, Summer 2003
- “The Eye of the Author,” Words & Music Conference, New Orleans, Fall 2002
- “Sleeping with One Eye Open,” Associated Writing Programs, Kansas City, 2000
- “Writing the Mystery,” Words & Music, New Orleans, 1999
- “Louis Erdrich and the Problem of Native American Fiction,” Fulbright Conference, Belgium, 1999
- “It Takes a Village: What We Can Learn from the Montolieu Workshops,” Associated Writing Programs, Washington, D.C., 1997
- “The Issue of Anne Stanton in *All the King’s Men*,” MLA, Washington, D.C., 1996
- “Gynocritics and the Masculine Writer: Opportunities in Warren Criticism,” Festival of Poets, LSU, 1995
- “Sleeping with the Boss: Feminist Criticism and R.P. Warren,” ALA, Baltimore, 1995
- “Refractions of Lucretia: *The Franklin’s Tale* and *The Physician’s Tale*,” SAMLA, 1994
- “Bill McKibben: The Missing Information,” Popular Culture Assn., Charlotte, NC, 1994
- “Narrative Distancing in *A Place to Come To*,” Robert Penn Warren Circle, 1994
- “What Color Are We? Minorities in the MFA World,” Associated Writing Programs, 1994

(Selected lectures, cont.)

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“Unreliable Narration in *World Enough and Time*,” ALA, May 1993  
“From Manty to Cassie: Robert Penn Warren’s Female Persona,” RPW Symposium,  
St. Louis, 1992

## **Selected Fiction Readings**

Westminster School; Berkshire Academy; University of Peshaware; Tucson Literary Festival; Tennessee Williams Literary Festival; Virginia Festival of the Book; Newburyport Literary Festival; Michigan State University; Connecticut Book Festival; Northeast Writers Workshop; Washington University; University of Missouri; University of Maine at Presque Isle; Pennsylvania State University; Holy Cross College; New England Modern Language Association; Lynchburg College; University of Arkansas; Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium; University of Dortmund, Germany; Pen in Hand Central New York State Writers Conference; University of North Texas; Utica College; Texas A&M University; Faulkner House, New Orleans; Maryville College; University of Tennessee, Knoxville; Hollins College Literary Festival; Hamilton College; Bard College; Phillips Exeter Academy

## **Selected Honors, Grants, and Awards**

2015 Great Group Reads selection, National Women’s Booksellers Association, 2015  
Book-of-the-Month Club selection, *The Lost Daughter*, 2012  
Narrative Essay Award (first prize), Int’l Society for Narrative, for “Uncle Charles Repairs to the A&P,” 2009  
Finalist, Flannery O’Connor Award for Short Fiction, 2009  
Ucross Fellowship, 2008  
Ragdale Fellowship, 2008  
Vine Shorts Film Fest Finalist, 2007  
Vermont Studio Center Fellowship, 2007  
Robert Penn Warren Centennial Prize, *Shenandoah*, 2005  
*Roanoke Review*: First Prize, for “Road Rage,” 2004  
*Nebraska Review* first prize for creative nonfiction for “Skinniest Girl,” Winter 2003  
*Phoebe* winter fiction contest, finalist for “Minnesota,” Winter 2003  
Peter Taylor Prize, runner-up, for *That Night at the Café*, 2002  
*New Letters* short fiction competition, finalist for “Road Rage,” Fall 2002  
Society for the Short Story Award for “The Rules,” 2000  
Peter Taylor Prize, honorable mention, for *Sympathetic Nerves*, 2000  
Mid-List Award in Short Fiction, 2000  
Fulbright Fellowship, 1998-99  
Pushcart Prize finalist, 1996  
*River City* Award, for “Leaving the Neighborhood,” 1995  
Pirate’s Alley Faulkner Award, for *Against Gravity*, 1994  
Southern Writers Association Award, for *Against Gravity*, 1994  
Irene Leache Literary Contest, First Prize, for “Rumpelstiltskin,” 1994  
*Louisville Review* Prize, for “Rumpelstiltskin,” 1994  
Jesse Ball Dupont Diversity Grant, 1993  
National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship in Literature, 1988-89  
George Bennett Memorial Fellowship, 1979-80  
*Redbook* Fiction Award, 1979

## **Professional Memberships**

AAUP; Modern Language Association; Associated Writing Programs; Robert Penn Warren Circle;  
Pen American Center; Pen New England